

Division of Exceptional Student Education Clinical/Behavioral Services Winter 2016 Newsletter



Building Bridges for our Students

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Congratulations to *Journey of Dreams* IMPACT Award Winner... Dr. Angel Rodriguez

The Journey of Dreams benefit is **Parent to Parent of Miami's** signature fundraising event to celebrate, recognize and honor community members whose vision, leadership and perseverance have significantly contributed to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities and their families.

Dr. Angel Rodriguez is the recipient of the 11th Annual ***Journey of Dreams* IMPACT Award**. This award is bestowed to an individual who Inspires, Motivates, Promotes, Advocates, and through Community involvement becomes a Transformational leader.

This past November, families, friends, and community leaders in Miami-Dade County gathered at the 11th Annual ***Journey of Dreams Benefit*** to honor Dr. Rodriguez for his work and support on behalf of children and adults with disabilities and their families.

By: Mr. Emanuel Sinclair,
Administrative Assistant,
Parent to Parent



Clinical/Behavioral Services
Ms. Robin J. Morrison
Executive Director

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Newsletter Editor
Mr. Craig Siegel

The Clinical / Behavioral Services Newsletter wants to hear from you. Please send in articles and photographs highlighting the exceptional work you and your colleagues are doing.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of the newsletter is:

May 13, 2016

Please send all items to
Mr. Craig Siegel at:

csiegel@dadeschools.net

PINE VILLA ELEMENTARY - DONUTS WITH DAD DAY



On September 30, 2015, Pine Villa had a huge turnout for "Donuts with Dad" day. Mrs. Deveau, Mrs. Gelsomino-Seaborn, Ms. Santiago, and Mr. Parker along with the administrative team welcomed fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, cousins, and all male role models to show their presence in their children's lives. The students were very excited about bringing their parent or "man in their life" to the school and all attendees walked away with a small token of appreciation.



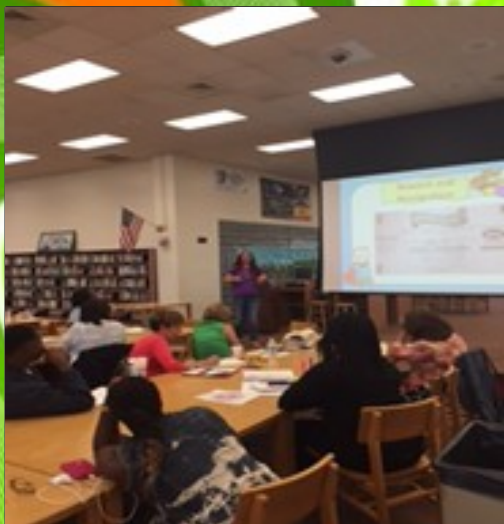
By: Ms. Girolama Gelsomino-Seaborn, E/BD Clinician

MIAMI PALMETTO SENIOR - PUSH FOR GREATNESS

On September 24, 2015, Sabrian Bruton (who began the Push for Greatness community outreach program), spoke with students participating in the E/BD program. Push for Greatness is a non-profit agency which provides a mentoring program in the Perrine area. Mr. Bruton's talk with the students benefited them greatly as most of them live in the Perrine area. They were able to relate to the concrete examples he provided of how to avoid getting involved in social problems. He focused on methods of creating pro-social friendships, strong interpersonal skills, and reasserting a sense of hope for their future. The students wholeheartedly appreciated his support and participated in the discussion. His visit has generated many real-life topics and conversations within the group counseling sessions.

By: Ms. Jennifer Santino-Slawson, E/BD Clinician





POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT CONTINUES TO GROW

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) has reached its thirteenth year of implementation here in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The list of schools trained who are implementing PBS has grown substantially. We have also been able to offer schools who have been implementing the initiative additional booster trainings for new staff. Below is the list of PBS trainings that have taken place this year.

PBS Team Leader Trainings PBS Adobe Connect

PBS Initial Tier 1 Training for High Schools (3 Day)

PBS Tier 1 Booster Training

PBS Initial Tier 1 for Elementary Schools and K-8 Centers (3 day)



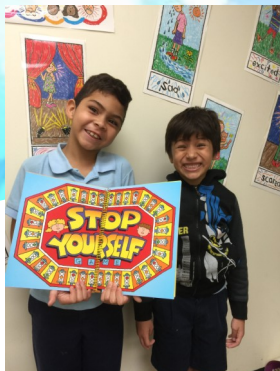
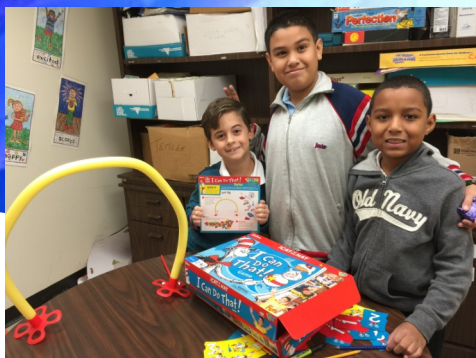
We look forward to continuing our work with PBS schools. Training, time, and commitment are critical in implementing this research-based initiative with fidelity. Schools that have made the commitment have seen changes in both school climate and culture.

A big “thank you” to Miami Jackson Senior High and G. Holmes Braddock Senior High for hosting our PBS Team Leader Trainings.

By: Ms. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Project Manager



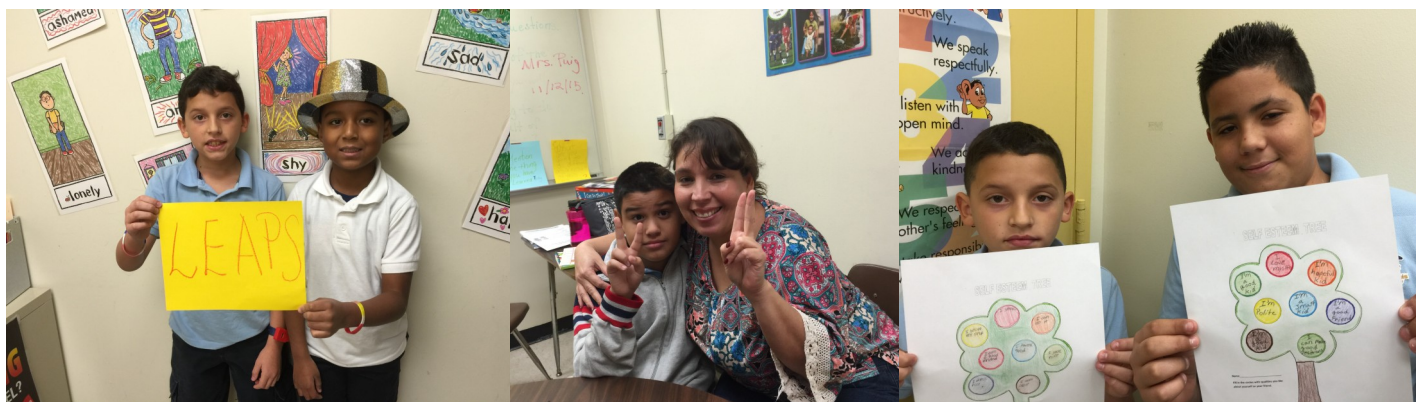
THERAPEUTIC GAMES - HELPING MOVE STUDENTS FORWARD ONE TURN AT A TIME



During group counseling, the students participating in the E/BD program at Scott Lake Elementary have fun as they are introduced to new therapeutic board games. These games help them learn many different concepts such as the importance of being patient and waiting their turn in order to win. The students are learning that patience is an important ingredient in their social life and is a key factor in academic success. As they play the *Wait and Win* board game, the students try a variety of fun tasks and try to solve problems effectively and successfully. Through the therapeutic use of this game, areas such as frustration tolerance, self-control, respect for others, and a sense of time and timing are addressed. The most important factor is that the students enjoy coming to counseling because they learn and have fun simultaneously.

The wonderful students who participate in the E/BD program at John G. DuPuis Elementary are learning about self-esteem through therapeutic games such as *I Can Do That* game and worksheet activities such as the *Self Esteem Tree Game*. The students are learning to differentiate between high self-esteem and a low self-esteem and discover their strengths and good personal qualities as group participants fill in the "fruits" on the tree with positive comments and things they like about themselves. As the students participate in these games, they learn they are capable to do anything they set their minds to as they discover that they do possess gifts, qualities, talents, and strengths.

By: Ms. Susana Puig, E/BD Clinician



WHAT IS...



The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities ([SEDNET](#)) creates and facilitates a network of key stakeholders committed to assisting in the provision of a quality system of care for students with or at-risk of emotional and/or behavioral challenges.

How does SEDNET work to provide services for students in Miami-Dade County?

Did you know that SEDNET provides Case Management services? If you need assistance with information regarding a student who has been involved in a Baker Act and/or has received inpatient services from a children's adolescent psychiatric facility in Miami-Dade County, we can assist you in obtaining information. Facilities managed include:

**Nicklaus Children's Hospital
Southern Winds Hospital
Citrus Health Network
Jackson Memorial Hospital**

For further information please contact Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Project Manager at 305-598-2436.

By: Ms. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Project Manager

HOWARD DRIVE STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY



The staff of the E/BD Program at Howard Drive Elementary wanted to instill the importance of caring during this holiday season. They developed activities that would allow the students to focus on the needs of others, rather than on themselves. To help the students understand the importance of caring for others and how they can have a positive impact, they were given the opportunity to spearhead the Thanks-giving Canned Food Drive as well as giving holiday stockings to children in the hospital. The stockings were

filled with toys that the students bought with the "money" that they had saved up from demonstrating positive behavior for several weeks. These students chose to spend their "money" on toys to be placed in the stockings instead of buying something for themselves. The students also wrote a personal message to the hospitalized children that were included in the stockings. These stockings were delivered by staff members to local hospitals. The joy of helping others was such a positive theme this year throughout the E/BD program.



By: Ms. Deborah Davis, Behavior Management Teacher

ART THERAPY - LETTING THE ART REACH THE HEART



Art Cares for Kids, is a Miami-based, non-profit organization started by art therapist, Elizabeth Portuondo. It is comprised of volunteers who serve hospitalized children dealing with medical challenges. ArtCares for Kids utilizes art to help nurture, support, and engage children through the creative process of art.

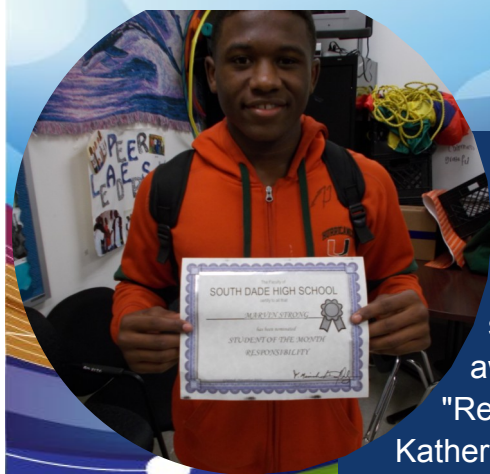
Select M-DCPS Art Therapists volunteered to assist Art Cares for Kids in a special project by creating images through the process of selecting stencils or templates to make and outline positive messages and images ready to paint on canvases for the children in the hospital. In all three of my schools, Homestead High, Homestead Middle, and Robert Morgan Educational Center, students enjoyed both the creative process and the idea that they were helping others in need of support.

My students truly enjoyed offering a gift to those with health issues and realized the power of art to heal not only themselves but those struggling outside of the school system whom they could not see yet still offer comfort through art. This unique project was definitely a "win-win" for everybody involved.

By: Dr. Patricia Isis, Art Therapist



SOUTH DADE SENIOR - VALUES MATTER



South Dade Senior's E/BD Program has joined in support of the "Values Matter" campaign. Each month, 1 EBD student is chosen for one of the Core Values that month and presented with a special certificate. Depicted here are two award winners for "Citizenship" and "Responsibility". E/BD Clinician, Ms. Katherine Meinecke's Peer Leaders are also promoting the core values with younger peers in the program.

By: Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician



SOUTH DADE SENIOR - KEEPING IT SAFE AND CHALLENGING



This year's weekly Project Adventure activities are becoming more challenging in nature; encouraging and promoting students to bond and work together towards a common goal. As depicted in one of the activities, "King of the Crates," students not on crates must assume the position of a

"spotter", making sure everyone is kept safe and can trust in their teammates. In the other activity, "Amoeba Race", students are instructed to create an amoeba with the positioning of their bodies, lifting the "nucleus", and creating a supportive cell wall and protoplasm to carry it to its destination.

By: Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician



MIAMI SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR - AT&T SEES A PIECE OF THE EMPIRE



A select group of Miami Southridge students went on a work study trip on Tuesday, November 24th, 2015 right before the Thanksgiving break. Our students were given job resume directions prior to the work study trip and several students were able to leave completed resumes with AT&T.

The group was made possible based on the Junior Achievement Organization and AT&T. The students gained insight into real work teams and were challenged to set goals for themselves to be successful. AT&T had different speakers who presented about their careers and the versatility of the company. They tried to show students how dedication, hard work, and great work ethic equates to success.

AT&T also stressed the dangers of texting and driving. A video presentation illustrated the potential negative outcomes of texting and driving and the impact it has on all of those involved in an accident. The message was powerful and enlightening.

Chaperoning this event was the “E/BD Dream Team” at Miami Southridge composed of Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, Art Therapist; Holly Campbell, Behavior Management Teacher; and Joan Astigarraga, E/BD Clinician. The “E/BD Dream Team” is part of a bigger group at Miami Southridge which has a motto of “Return of the Empire”. Miami Southridge continues to build and promote a quality and safe learning environment.

By: Ms. Morgen Chesonis-Gonzalez, Art Therapist






CHECK AND CONNECT

We are excited to have eight schools in Miami-Dade County currently trained and implementing Check and Connect through the support of Florida Gulf Coast University, the University of South Florida, and the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) from the U.S. Department of Education, OSEP. Check and Connect is a comprehensive student engagement intervention. It consists of school site staff working as mentors with a student mentee. The following schools are current Check and Connect schools:



**Riviera Middle School
Southwest Miami Senior
Norland Middle School
Miami Norland Middle School
Georgia-Jones Ayers Middle School
Miami Jackson Senior High School
Homestead Middle School
Homestead Senior High School**

All current Check and Connect school leadership teams have been trained in preparation and implementation. All designated mentors have also received the two day training. We look forward to this continued collaboration as SEDNET and the Clinical Behavioral Services Department support our schools in making strides for all students.



By: Ms. Alina Rodriguez, SEDNET Project Manager

PBS NEWS AT JESSE J. MCCRARY, JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The PBS program at Jesse J. McCrary is in full-swing again this year. In keeping with our Superhero theme, we held our PBS pep rally in early September where our PBS Team and Administrators reviewed the PBS/ Dolphin Expectations, the Values Matter Program, and the new Attendance Arcade guidelines with students, teachers, and staff. Teachers will use their Dojo accounts to give students points for being Dolphin Expectation Superheroes when they are D-dedicated, O-organized, L-loving, P-prompt & present, H-honest, (have) I-integrity, N-noteworthy & S-safe. Students then may “cash-in” their Dojo points to attend the monthly PBS events, such as the Dolphin Depot store, held in September, and the annual Fall Festival, held in October.

Two new areas have been added to our PBS program this year. We have opened an Attendance Arcade at Jesse J. One of our classrooms is converted into a game room on the first Wednesday of each month. Students with perfect attendance for the previous month are allowed to come to the Attendance Arcade during their Special area time. Our PBS Team Leader, Ms. Foley, secured a Donors Choose donation for games, movies, and art activities to use in the arcade. Jesse J. also utilizes the Values Matter initiative daily. In addition to spotlighting the monthly Core Value each day on the announcements, the teachers receive the monthly newsletter and a lesson that relates to the current core value; students complete the activities when they are “caught” doing the right thing. We have created a Values Matters area in the media center where we can showcase these students, along with those who are nominated as the Core Value Student for each month. Students also receive shout-outs and Dojo points for exhibiting the core values and the Dolphin expectations.

By: Ms. Joy Foley, Media Specialist



ATTENDANCE
ARCADE



FACE
PAINTING



SUPERHEROES AT JESSE J. MCCRARY'S PBS PEP RALLY

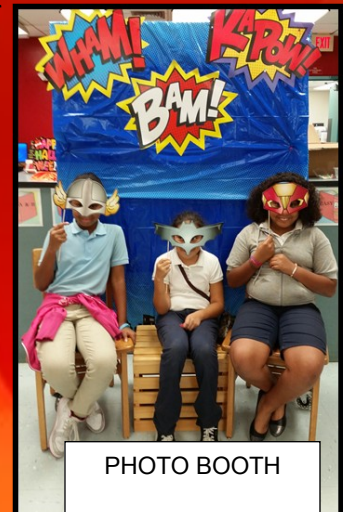


PHOTO BOOTH

HOMESTEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL - MEETING THE CHALLENGE



Students at Homestead Middle School participate weekly in Project Adventure Activities, coordinated by Ms. Katherine Meinecke, and assisted by Ms. Filomena Martin, E/BD clinician, and Mr. Bryce Bishop, their teacher, who are both really supportive. This year students have been involved in a multitude of challenging initiatives, such as "Stepping Stones", depicted here, in which the goal is to build communication, trust, and cooperation.

By: Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician

Homestead Middle Peer Leaders in training are called upon sometimes to assist teachers/students in the program for students with intellectual disabilities, learning to give to others, and become mentors. Here, a candid, more casual moment is caught, in which the students share their "moves" of the Whip.

By: Ms. Katherine Meinecke, E/BD Clinician



PINE LAKE ELEMENTARY - "CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW"



At Pine Lake Elementary, E/BD Clinician, Idalia Vargas, and Behavior Management Teacher, Michelle Arias, conducted a presentation for students titled, "Wireless Communication Devices: Miami-Dade County Code of Student Conduct". Combining November's core value (citizenship) with cyber safety rules and responsibilities, the goal of the presentation was to enable students to become positive online citizens. Students were reminded that along with the right to use available technology, they must also be aware of their responsibilities as users so that they are not in violation of laws or the Code of Student Conduct. All students were actively engaged, and this led to great discussion throughout the presentation. The presentation concluded with all students pledging to be positive digital citizens!

By: Ms. Idalia Vargas, E/BD Clinician

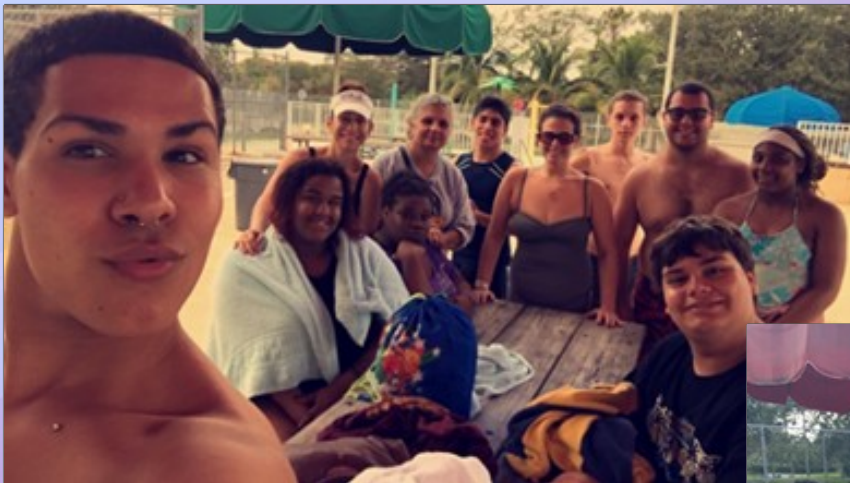
MIAMI SUNSET SENIOR - GOT SHARKS?

On Tuesday, December 1, 2015 I took my Senior class to complete step 1 of our shark tagging trip journey. The students took their swim test at A.D. Barnes Park with Coach David Diamond. My ultimate goal is to write a grant in order to provide the funding needed to take my students shark tagging with the University of Miami in May of 2016. The University of Miami conducts shark research by tagging different species of sharks and documenting their habits. The students will be broken up in teams of 5 and will each be assigned a job once a shark is hooked and brought up on the vessel. The team will work quickly to gather the data needed (such as the species, sex, length and girth), take a small piece of cartilage from the fin for testing, and attach the satellite tag on the fin. Then, the shark will be released.

Many of my students do not participate in Senior activities such as Homecoming, Prom, or Grad Night. Because of this, I want to do something special for them and give them an experience they will never forget. Additionally, this activity will help unite them with their peers in celebrating the accomplishment of graduating high school. This field trip will build social and team building skills, which are essential as they will be moving on into the real world.

As a bonus, Coach Diamond has graciously offered to take us kayaking in April. For now, we are focused on keeping ourselves in control of our emotions and earning good grades to ensure graduation. We look forward to a spectacular school year and plan to end it with a bang!

By: Ms. Lissette Casteleiro-Terron, E/BD Teacher



PARAPROFESSIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For the mandatory Professional Development Day scheduled for October 30, 2015, the Clinical/Behavioral Services (CBS) District Team provided two concurrent full-day workshops designed specifically for Paraprofessionals working within E/BD programs throughout the District. The trainings, which took place at Coral Gables Senior High and Robert Renick Educational Center, provided an in-depth, interactive session addressing the following topic areas:

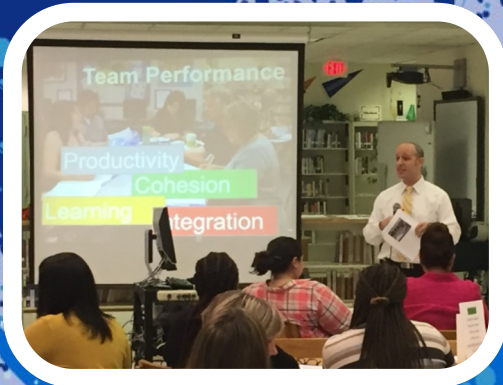
Characteristics of Students Identified as E/BD Program Service Delivery Roles and Responsibilities of E/BD Program Staff Crisis Management

Attendees were engaged in discussion, had a number of good questions, and were highly appreciative of a day devoted to providing education and support.

The CBS District Team received positive feedback and will continue to provide similar trainings to meet the needs of our Paraprofessional “partners” in the classrooms.

By: Mr. Craig Siegel, Chairperson





CLINICAL BEHAVIORAL STAFF HELP FORM THEIR OWN LEARNING

The 2015 Professional Development calendar for District Clinical Behavioral Staff was established based on the responses to the end of the year survey and roundtable discussion at our May 2015 PD session. So far, we have hosted presenters who have addressed Team Building, Crisis Intervention, and Managing Behaviors. Hopefully attendees have learned, shared and implemented new strategies to further enhance and possibly change the outcomes for students within M-DCPS.

As we move forward to 2016, it is important to remember the value of *self-care* so we can continue to be present and invested in being part of the change for students.

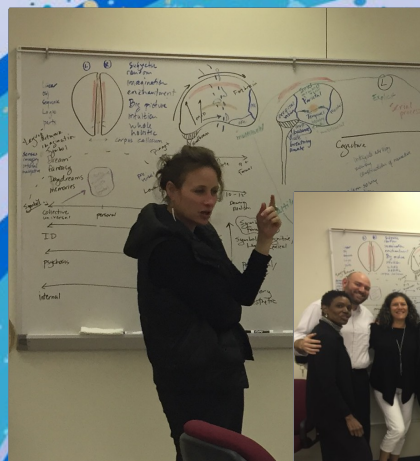
By: Ms. Nadyne Floyd-Grubbs, Chairperson



ART THERAPY - A BRAIN BASED PROFESSION

The Clinical Art Therapy Department had the privilege of inviting Ms. Juliet King, Adjunct Assist Professor, Department of Neurology, Indiana University School of Medicine to give an in-depth two day Professional Development training titled "Art Therapy: A Brain Based Profession". The presenter addressed current research connecting evidenced based practices about the brain and the art making process for creating cognitive and emotional gains.

By: Mr. Craig Siegel, Chairperson



SAFE CRISIS MANAGEMENT TRAINERS – GIVING OF THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE

The District Safe Crisis Management (SCM) Trainers have had a busy schedule providing initial and refresher trainings throughout Miami-Dade County. In addition to their responsibilities as Teachers, E/BD Clinicians, Behavior Management Teachers, or District staff, this amazing group of professionals have found the time to impart their knowledge of classroom management, rapport building, prevention, and de-escalation strategies to attentive audiences.

This veteran team of trainers has recently added seven new members to the team. These new SCM trainers bring with them experience, professionalism, and an eagerness to represent the team and the District.

To conduct the numerous SCM trainings, it is also important to acknowledge the administrators who are so willing to support the need for this training by allowing the trainers to participate and to the administrators who are incredibly generous with space to allow us to host the SCM trainings on their campus. A huge “Thank you” to everyone involved!

By: Mr. Craig Siegel, Chairperson



Back row: Mr. Shayon Tresvant; Mr. Mark Fabal; Mr. Adriel Lantigua; Mr. Juan de Arrigunaga; Mr. Craig Siegel; Ms. Gladys Jones
Middle row: Mr. Kwan Chang; Mrs. Laura Berrenguer; Ms. Lilianna Maldonado; Mr. Charley Cheek
Front row: Ms. Lilliane deZendegui; Mrs. Deborah Davis; Mr. Armando Viltre; Mrs. Jasmine Brown-Grocher; Ms. Cassey Elias

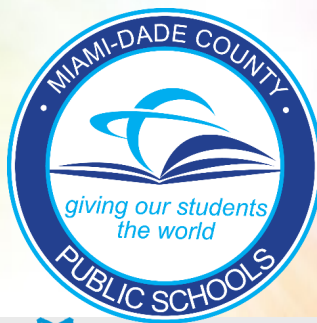
Join us at the Annual PBS Share FAIR And Parent Summit

January 12th from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Miami-Dade College – North Campus

11380 NW 27th Ave., Miami, FL 33167

Conference Center (3000 Building – 2nd Floor)

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Don't miss out!

Contact Robin Morrison, Executive Director
Clinical Behavioral Services
(305) 995-7419 or rmorrison@dadeschools.net





**THE
CLINICAL BEHAVIORAL
SERVICES DISTRICT TEAM
WISHES YOU
A FANTASTIC WINTER
RECESS!**